**Instructional Goal:** To provide the student with the knowledge and training necessary to instruct students to safely maintain, manipulate and employ a pistol mounted optic (PMO).

LAPD students must have successfully completed the FIREARMS/HANDGUN INSTRUCTOR (HITS) 1850-21460 course prior to attending this training.

**Performance Objectives:** Using lecture, group discussions, learning activities, practical application and testing, the student will:

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and ability to safely manipulate their pistol with a PMO attached
- Demonstrate the ability to install, replace batteries, zero, clean and maintain a PMO
- Shoot a qualifying score on the Department's 30-around Combat Qualification Course. The minimum qualifying score is 105 points (70%) on each target out of a possible 150 points.
- Agree to abide by the requirements set forth as a member of the PMO cadre concerning qualification, battery installation (maintenance) and zeroing of the PMO.
- Display an understanding of how our Department's guiding value of Reverence for Human Life is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, and officer safety
- Display an understanding of how the application of this training is in keeping with our department's UOF policy, philosophy, and tactical planning

<u>**References:**</u> Instructors, facilitators and training supervisors shall ensure that current references are utilized

# I. INTRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION

(30 min)

- A. Instructor (s)
  - 1. Name, assignment
  - 2. Experience
  - 3. Distribute POST and Safety roster
- B. Brief overview of the training schedule
  - 1. Summary of hours, activities and sequence
- C. Overview Safety Plan: IIPP Guidelines
  - 1. These safety guidelines apply to all training given by the Department. These guidelines are to ensure that staff and participants are aware of potential hazardous situations and how to avoid it.
  - 2. A copy of the guidelines will be given to each student, instructor and coordinator to ensure they are followed.
  - 3. Anyone participating in training, whether student, observer, or instructor, has the authority to "STOP" the exercise if they observe an unsafe act or condition that may cause imminent injury or death and/or damage to the facilities.
  - 4. Protective eyewear and ear protection (American National Standards Institute ANSI approved) shall be worn if blanks or live-fire rounds are used during a practical application.

- D. Students shall immediately notify an instructor(s) of the training staff of any injury sustained during training, and use the following steps in the event of a serious injury
  - 1. Render first-aid and obtain appropriate medical assistance. Notify the Fire Department rescue ambulance (213) 485-6180 via telephone, cellular phone, or police radio. Give specific directions to the location of the incident.
  - 2. In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed.
  - 3. At each training location, there is a notebook located in the training unit's office also containing the emergency plan that is in place.
  - 4. The Supervisor will ensure that the necessary Worker Compensation forms (PDAS-43) and other reports (Employee Notification Form / 15.7) are completed in a timely manner.
  - 5. Transport to the local hospital for a minor injury:
    - a. Elysian Park Facility:

Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center 2051 Marengo Street Los Angeles, California 90033 (323) 409-1000

Distribute: Handout "Pistol Mounted Optic Operators Course"

- 1. Overview the handout and address the key points
- 2. PMO Operators Course Requirements
  - Student shall demonstrate proficient manipulation and marksmanship skills with their existing platform without the use of a pistol mounted optic
    - b. Student shall possess a Department authorized pistol with a factory manufactured slide capable of utilizing a pistol mounted optic, a Department authorized holster appropriate for the operator's current assignment, a Department authorized pistol optic, the appropriate tools necessary to install the optic and battery of the pistol optic, a cleaning kit, and a set of eye and ear protection.
    - c. Student shall be on duty and not possess any work restrictions which would prevent the operator from participating in the class.
    - d. Student shall shoot and pass the In-service Combat Qualification course with a minimum score of 105 points on each target.
    - e. The student shall qualify with their PMO on every pistol qualification month for one year.
    - f. PMO cadre members shall attend a PMO update session where they will replace their battery with a brand new in package battery, verify the torque settings on the fasteners, re-zero their PMO's, and shoot a passing score on the In-service Combat Qualification course.
- 3. Authorized PMO capable pistols.
  - a. Any currently authorized semi-automatic handgun with the factory capacity to accept a PMO
  - b. Must possess suppressor height sights to co-witness with the PMO
- 4. Authorized pistol mounted optics
  - a. Optics manufactured by the following companies within Department specifications

- 1) Trijicon
- 2) Aimpoint
- 3) Sig Sauer
- 5. Authorized PMO capable duty holsters
  - a. Holsters manufactured by the following companies within Department specifications
    - 1) Safariland
    - 2) DeSantis
    - 3) Gould and Goodrich
    - 4) Spetzgear

## **II. FOUR BASIC FIREARMS SAFETY RULES**

(15 min)

Group discussion:

- A. Conduct an open discussion that will cause the student to review and think about the importance of the Four Basic Firearm Safety Rules.
  - 1. All guns are always loaded.
  - 2. Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to shoot.
  - 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned on the target and you intend to shoot.
  - 4. Be sure of your target.
- B. Reinforce that the safety rules apply at home and in the field as well as on the range.
- C. Review the definitions of negligent and accidental discharge and how they apply to the student.
  - 1. Negligent discharge
    - a. An unintentional discharge of a firearm when one or more of the firearms safety rules has been violated.
  - 2. Accidental discharge
    - a. An unintentional discharge of a firearm when all firearms safety rules have been followed

# **III. PMO OVERVIEW**

Large group activity:

A. Introduce the various PMO systems

- 1. Identify the different capabilities and functions of the different optics
- 2. Introduce the fundamentals of PMO use and compare the use of optics versus iron sights.
- 3. Traditional sight focus vs target focus
- 4. One eye technique vs two eye technique
- 5. 90-degree orientation vs fluid orientation
- 6. Strict alignment of sights vs parallax free dot float methodology
- 7. Larger aiming point vs smaller, finer aiming point

# IV. ELEMENTS OF MARSKMANSHIP REVIEW

(30 min)

(15 min)

Purpose: Provide students with a review of the necessary elements of marksmanship to produce accurate and timely shots under all conditions.

Conduct an open discussion, addressing the key points related to the elements of marksmanship.

A. Stance

- 1. Weaver
- 2. Modern combat isosceles
- B. Grip
- C. Breath Control
- D. Sight Alignment
  - 1. Traditional front sight focus
  - 2. PMO target focus
- E. Sight Picture
  - 1. Traditional alignment with target
  - 2. PMO dot positioning hold offs
- F. Trigger Control
- G. Follow Through

## V. USE OF FORCE REVIEW

Use of Force Policy<sup>1</sup> including De-escalation<sup>2</sup>: Group Discussion

Procedure: Conduct and open discussion, addressing the Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force Policy

A. Review objective reasonableness as stated in Use of Force Directive

- 1. Objectively reasonable: Graham vs Conner, 490 US 386 (1989)
- 2. Factors used to determine reasonableness
- 3. Use of force-general: Department Policy
- 4. Deadly force
- 5. Review drawing and exhibiting policy
- 6. Review the Departments policy concerning shooting at or from a moving vehicle.
- 7. Review Tactical De-Escalation Techniques
- 8. 835 a PC

# VI. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Conduct an open discussion reviewing the required equipment Officers shall possess to participate in the PMO cadre

A. Firearm must be an authorized make and model with a slide produced by the factory to accept a pistol mounted optic.

(30 min)

(15 min)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Department Manual Section 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LAPD Use of Force-Tactics Directive No. 16, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques, October 2016

- B. Optic must be an authorized make, model and color and supplied with the necessary mounting bracket and fasteners to properly attach to the firearm per factory specifications.
  - 1. Trijicon RMR Type 2
    - a. Must have the sealing plate
    - b. If installed on a Glock MOS must have the correct fasteners to attach the optic to the weapon
    - c. RMR has the highest battery life of the tested and approved optics
    - d. Rugged construction
    - e. Requires the optic to be re-zeroed when changing the battery
    - f. Exposed diode has a sensitivity to heavy rain conditions
  - 2. Aimpoint Acro P-1
    - a. Largest of the authorized optics
    - b. Sealed two lens system
    - c. Larger lens size allows for easier tracking of dot during firing sequence
    - d. Sealed system has less sensitivity to heavy rain
    - e. Battery system does not require pistol to be re-zeroed after battery exchange
  - 3. Sig-Sauer Romeo 1T
    - a. Authorized only for installation on the Sig Sauer P320 pistols
    - b. Must be installed with the metal armored housing
    - c. Larger lens then RMR
    - d. Battery system does not require pistol to be re-zeroed after the battery exchange
- C. Firearm must be equipped with back up iron sights visible through the optic to provide a redundant aiming system in the event of optic failure
  - 1. Compare different sight options
    - a. 1/3 co-witnessed sights
      - 1. Less sights visible
      - 2. Tritium not usable in this configuration
      - 3. Lower profile
      - 4. More optic window available to be viewed through
      - 5. Less cluttered
    - b. 1/1 co-witnessed sights
      - 1. Iron sights are higher visibility
      - 2. Tritium can be utilized
      - 3. Higher profile
      - 4. Only half of the optic window is available to be used
      - 5. When using a 3-dot tritium system the picture can be very cluttered
- D. Tools necessary to install and adjust the optic on the student's pistol
- E. A brand new in package authorized battery for the appropriate make and model of the optic
- F. Minimum of 3 (three) magazines of the appropriate make and model
- G. Eye and ear protection

- H. An authorized holster and magazine pouch appropriate to the Officer's primary work function
  - 1. Patrol Sam Browne with duty holster and appropriate magazine pouches
  - 2. Detectives and plain clothes assignments concealed carry holster and pouches

# VII. PMO INSTALLATION AND BATTERY CHANGE

(20 min)

Review installation of the pistol mounted optic and battery

- A. Verify with a visual and physical inspection the pistol is empty
  - 1. No magazine
  - 2. Slide in battery
- B. Locate the fasteners on the top of the pistol securing the cover plate onto the slide and remove the fasteners and the cover plate
  - 1. Retain all the parts for future use in the event you no longer wish to use the PMO
    - a. PMO capable pistols shall authorized for use with either the factory cover plate or Department issued PMO properly installed
- C. Install the PMO in accordance to the pistol and optic factory specifications
  - 1. Trijicon RMR type 2 optics shall have the sealing plate installed and the correct fasteners for authorized use
  - 2. Trijicon RMR type 2 optics shall have the battery installed at the same time as installation of the optic
- D. Verify torque settings using a torque wrench set at factory specifications
- E. Mark the screws with witness marks to provide field verification the fasteners have not begun to loosen
- F. Install the battery into the optic per factory specification
  - 1. Batteries must be Department authorized for the optic
  - 2. Batteries must be brand new in package within 2 years of expiration date and in good condition
  - 3. If the battery is covered by a screw, the screw shall have a witness mark to verify installation
- G. Verify proper installation of the battery by turning the optic on and conducting an optics function check
  - 1. Activate optic
  - 2. Increase brightness setting to maximum level
  - 3. Decrease brightness setting to lowest level
  - 4. Return brightness to desired level and power off optic
  - 5. Grasp the optic with your support hand and check for proper installation be attempting to move the optic front, back, left, right, and off the slide
  - 6. Visually inspect the lens and diode
    - a. Check for cracks
    - b. Oil, dirt and debris
    - c. Loose or shifted lens

# VIII. LIVE FIRE RANGE DRILLS

(385 min)

Through guided exercises students will learn to properly operate a pistol with a mounted optic under simulated combat conditions

- A. Draw time iron sights only
  - 1. Assess draw time utilizing traditional iron sight techniques with the optic turned off
  - 2. This drill provides a baseline number to allow for comparison of advantages and weaknesses of the system and to provide a measurement for student growth
  - 3. Utilizing a shot timer, the instructor shall test for draw speed at 7 yards a. Accuracy standard shall be combat marksmanship (9 and 10 ring body hits to be considered a hit)
  - 4. Unload at conclusion
  - B. Pistol Mounted Optic Zeroing
    - 1. Zero the optic at 15 yards with five shot groups with a minimum group size of 4 inches centered on the target
    - 2. Confirm co-witnessed position of the optic reticle in relationship to the iron sights
  - C. Zero verification
    - Slow fire 5 shot groups from 7 yards to 25 yards on pie plate targets

       Compare the elevation offset from close to far
  - D. Draw time with PMO activated
    - 1. Assess draw time utilizing the PMO
    - 2. Shot timer drill testing draw speed at 7 yards
      - a. Compare the draw speed with irons vs PMO
        - 1) Discuss acceptable sight picture with iron sights vs dot blur
  - E. Dot positions 7-10 yards
    - 1. Slow fire drill at 7 yards with the reticle placed in extreme portions of the lens
    - 2. Repeat the drill at 10 yards
      - a. Discuss the advantages of the optic and the lack of parallax at usable combat distances
      - b. Reinforce acceptable sight picture with PMO and advantages in alternative shooting positions
  - F. Multiple target failure drills
    - 1. At 10 yards conduct a failure drill on two targets
      - a. Discuss elements of the drill
        - 1) Sight picture acquisition from the draw
        - 2) Acceptable sight picture as the weapon presents on target
        - 3) Target transition techniques
          - a) Eye acquires target first
            - b) Upper body transitions consistently to eye focus location
            - c) Eye acquires PMO reticle and aligns it with the target
          - d) On acquisition of an acceptable sight picture the trigger is pressed smoothly to the rear
  - G. Alternating head shots drills

- 1. At 10 yards from a low ready position shoot alternating head shots
  - a. Re-enforce target transition techniques
  - b. Emphasize
    - 1) Trigger control
    - 2) Slower speed required for precision (low probability targets)
    - 3) Follow through
- H. In service combat qualification review
  - 1. Review the phases of the in-service combat qualification course
    - a. Sequence of fire must be followed
    - b. Minimum score to pass the test is 105 points on each target
    - c. Conduct a pre-test
- I. Bonus phase 2 progression drill
  - 1. 7 yards build student speed and marksmanship by progressing the number of rounds fired
    - a. 9 and 10 ring acceptable accuracy
    - b. Develop student confident and timing techniques
      - 1) Cultivate the ability to shoot turning targets
        - 2) Emphasize
          - a) PMO sight picture
          - b) Trigger control
          - c) Recoil management
          - d) Transitions
- J. Bonus course review Phase 5
  - 1. 17 yards alternating body shots
    - a. Build confidence in extended distance marksmanship
    - b. Emphasize the importance of changing speeds between combat manipulatives (Draw, transition, reloads) and long distance marksmanship
    - c. Develop student technique to utilize the available to achieve 10 ring accuracy during the phases allotted time limit
- K. Bonus course review Phase 6
  - 1. 25 yards
    - a. Review barricade shooting techniques
      - 1) Right hand right side barricade
        - 2) Left hand left side barricade
        - 3) Over the countertop barricade technique
  - 2. Slow fire
    - a. Confirm shooter capabilities to shoot consistent groups
      - 1) Emphasize
        - a) Trigger control
        - b) Breath control
      - 2) Change dot brightness for optimal sight picture at 25 yards
  - 3. 25 yards timed
- L. Bonus Relay
  - 1. Shoot the LAPD Bonus Course using a pistol mounted optic

End day 1

# IX. LIVE FIRE RANGE DRILLS

(120 min)

Group Discussion: Discuss the low light capabilities of the PMO and the phenomena of reticle wash out in combination with a darkened environment and activation of a tactical light

- A. Discuss brightness settings during different lighting environments
  - 1. Lowered brightness settings during darkened environment
    - a. Lower setting prevents excessive glare and allows target acquisition and engagement in diminished light settings.
    - b. Lower setting may be prone to wash out on manually adjusted models when used in conjunction with tactical lights due to lack of reticle intensity and inability to draw contrast from the illuminated target and the reticle
    - c. Higher setting during low light engagements necessitates the use of tactical lights
      - 1) High reticle brightness settings would produce excessive glare and potentially conceal the target
    - d. Mid-level setting does not produce excessive glare during diminished light engagements and is visible when used with a tactical light
      - Mid-level settings do not provide an optimum reticle in either diminished light environments nor low light environments used in conjunction with tactical lights
      - Mid-level settings provide a useable compromise in all low lights settings require the least amount of manipulation of the optic.

Through guided exercises students will learn to properly operate a pistol with a mounted optic under simulated combat conditions

- B. Low light PMO shooting drill
  - 1. 10 yards
  - 2. Tactical light activation on draw
  - 3. No light PMO only on draw
  - 4. Iron sights only on draw
- C. Draw time with dot
  - 1. 7 yards
    - a. Review draw time with PMO activated

# X. EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES

(60 min)

Through guided live fire exercises student shall learn techniques to utilize the pistol under exigent circumstances commonly experienced in combat.

- A. Discuss wet optic issues
  - 1. Exposed diode saturation
    - a) "Starbursting"
    - b) Reticle occlusion
  - 2. Lens saturation
    - a) Optic occlusion

- b) Reticle occlusion
- 3. Battery compartment saturation
  - a) Loss of reticle due to electrical short
  - b) Long term failure of the optic due to internal corrosion
- B. Wet optic drill
  - 1. Loaded weapons shall be sprayed with a layer of water simulating water saturation during a moderate rain storm engagement
  - 2. 10 yards
  - 3. Multiple failure drills
  - 4. Techniques for shooting with a water saturated optic
    - a) Moving the reticle to find a clear section of lens
    - b) Centered optic in conjunction with body position at short ranges
    - c) Wiping the lens and diode when time is given
- C. Discuss occluded optic issue
  - 1. Causes of occluded optic
    - a) Water
    - b) Mud
    - c) Oil
    - d) Lint
  - 2. Loss of identification through optic lens
    - a) Reticle is still visible and illuminated
    - b) View through the window of the lens is distorted or non-existent
  - 3. Occluded eye shooting technique
    - a) Two eye shooting technique
    - b) Non-dominant eye acquires target information
    - c) Dominant eye provides reticle information
    - d) Combined image superimposes reticle onto the target and provides a useable sight picture for combat purposes
- D. Occluded eye shooting drill
  - 1. 10 yards
  - 2. Front lens of optic taped with masking tape
- E. Discuss: Lens destruction
  - 1. Causes of lens destruction
    - a) Direct impact to lens
    - b) Body damage to the external portion of PMO
  - 2. Lens destruction considerations
    - a) Threat level
      - 1. Distance to threat
      - 2. Urgency of threat
      - 3. Capabilities of the shooter
    - b) Transition to back-up weapon
    - c) Lens destruction shooting techniques
      - 1. Weapon indexing
        - a. Side of weapon
        - b. Top of optic
        - c. Angle of optic
        - 2. Body indexing in conjunction with weapon indexing

- F. Lens destruction drill
  - 1. 7 12 yards
  - 2. Front lens of optic taped
  - 3. Optic deactivated

# XI. PMO EXPANDED CAPABILITIES

(180 min)

Open discussion on the advantages of the PMO and how these advantages can be exploited under combat conditions to improve accuracy and capabilities of the operator

- A. Increased situational awareness improves ability to assess<sup>3</sup> the shooting situation
  - 1. Two eye shooting technique
  - 2. Target focus
- B. Ability to engage accurately with the reticle in a non-centered position
  - Sight picture is easier to maintain under nontraditional<sup>4</sup> positions and while shooting on the move
- C. Smaller targeting reticle versus irons sights produces increased precision and consistency

Through guided live fire exercises student shall learn techniques to take advantage of the strengths of the PMO under combat conditions

- D. Decision making drill
  - 1. 12 yards
  - 2. Alternating targets
    - a. Shoot
    - b. No shoot
- E. Shooting from barricades
  - 1. 12 yards
  - 2. Right hand barricade
  - 3. Left hand barricade
  - 4. Kneeling position
- F. Shooting from shields
  - 1. 12 yards
- G. Shooting on the move
  - 1. 20 yards to 7 yards
  - 2. Forward and back
- H. Hostage taker shots
  - 1. 12 yards
  - 2. Hostage target

# XII. TESTING AND EVALUATION

In-service combat qualification tests

A. PMO Operator school test: In-service combat qualification test

(120 min)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Assess refers to the operators continued evaluation of the tactical environment versus the range manipulative of scanning the environment with the weapon after a shooting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Shooting from a barricade, support hand, or while utilizing a shield

- 1. Live fire warmup test
- B. Test: In-service combat qualification test
  - 1. Each student shall be assigned to a lane
  - 2. Students will shoot the LAPD In-service combat qualification course once
  - 3. The student must pass with a minimum passing score of 70%. 70% is defined as 105 points on each target for each relay fired.
  - 4. Instructors shall score the targets and record the scores on a qualification score sheet.
- C. Practical Application: Bonus relay
  - 1. Students shall shoot the Bonus course
    - a. Score shall be saved for determination of class top shot
    - b. Score shall not be entered into squab
- D. Draw time
  - 1. 7 yards
  - 2. Students shall demonstrate a speed draw for determination of class fastest draw with a hit
    - a. A hit shall be 9 or 10 ring marksmanship
- E. Out of battery speed reload time
  - 1. 7 yards
  - 2. Students shall demonstrate an out of batter speed reload for determination of the class fastest speed reload time with a hit
    - a. A hit shall be 9 or 10 ring marksmanship

# **XIII. COURSE REVIEW AND COMPLETION**

(60 min)

- A. Review PMO cadre membership requirements
  - 1. Annual re-zeroing and equipment inspection
    - a. PMO cadre members shall attend a re-zero confirmation session
    - b. PMO cadre members shall have a brand new in pack authorized battery for their optic
    - c. PMO cadre members shall reverify torque settings on their optic and install the new battery
    - d. PMO cadre members shall reverify their zero on the PMO and shoot a minimum passing score on the in-service combat qualification course
    - e. PMO cadre will reapply witness mark on all fasteners or caps which can rotate during use
  - 2. PMO cadre members shall shoot every month in-service combat qualification is available for the duration of one year
    - a. Zero cost program to the Department
      - 1) PMO cadre shall provide their own ammunition on nonspecified qualification months
      - 2) PMO cadre members shall contact the companies directly for any warranty issues concerning the pistol mounted optics
        - a) Department Armories are not responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, installation, and repair of pistol mounted optics
  - 3. Reinforce key learning points of operator's course

- 4. Continually check proper working condition of weapons and equipment
  - a. Keep a redundant supply of batteries
  - Maintain access to a redundant Department authorized pistol, magazines, holsters and equipment in the event of catastrophic failure of the PMO
  - c. Periodically reapply witness mark to any fastener capable of moving during recoil
  - d. Prior to going on duty check
    - 1) The reticle is activated
    - 2) The lens is clean and clear
    - 3) The optic is properly installed and torqued
- 5. Practice reticle acquisition during the draw and under simulated combat conditions
- 6. Practice iron sight shooting to maintain the necessary elements of marksmanship specific to iron sight shooting in the event the PMO does not activate properly
- 7. REVERENCE FOR HUMAN LIFE. Reverence for human life is the primary consideration in developing tactics and strategies in pursuit of our motto: "To Protect and To Serve." It is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, and community and officer safety.